

REMARKS

Claims 7-9 and 11-13 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, claims 1-6, 10, and 14-19 are canceled without prejudice. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present claims in view of the following remarks.

I. Formal Matters

Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 7-9 and 11-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, dependent claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form including at least the features specified in canceled claim 6 and, thus, is in allowable condition. Dependent claim 8 is allowable based on its dependency on amended claim 7, and dependent claim 9 is allowable based on its dependency on claim 8, which is dependent on amended claim 7. Moreover, dependent claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form including at least the features specified in canceled claim 10 and, thus, is in allowable condition. Dependent claim 12 is allowable based on its dependency on amended claim 11, and dependent claim 13 is allowable based on its dependency on claim 12, which is dependent on amended claim 11. For at least these reasons, claims 7-9 and 11-13 are allowable, and the objections to these claims should be withdrawn.

II. Claim Rejections

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as failing to provide sufficient antecedent basis for the recitation “said digital control interface communications link” in the claim. As noted above, claim 10 has been canceled without prejudice, rendering the rejection to this claim moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1, 6, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,827,499 to Warty et al. (hereinafter “Warty”). This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, as noted above, claims 1, 6, and 10 have been canceled without prejudice, rendering the rejection to these claims moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) Over Warty

Claims 14 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Warty. This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, as noted above, claims 14 and 18-19 have been canceled without prejudice, rendering the rejection to these claims moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) Over Warty in View of Han

Claims 2-5 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Warty in view of United States Patent No. 6,079,017 to Han et al. (hereinafter “Han”). This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, as noted above, claims 2-5 and 15-16 have been canceled without prejudice, rendering the rejection to these claims moot.

CONCLUSION

For at least these reasons, Applicants assert that the pending claims 7-9 and 11-13 are in condition for allowance. Applicants further assert that this response addresses each and every point of the Office Action, and respectfully request that the Examiner pass this application with claims 7-9 and 11-13 to allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact Applicants’ undersigned attorney at 404.954.5042.

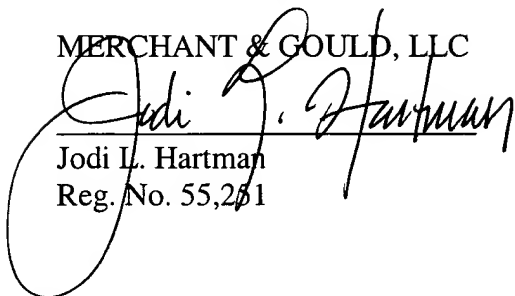
MERCHANT & GOULD, LLC
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
(404) 954.5100

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD, LLC


Jodi L. Hartman
Reg. No. 55,251